The Catering/Vending contractors are permitted to sell those items which are specified in the agreement or permitted under instructions of the railway administration. These items are decided keeping in view the demand, local speciality, etc.

Alleged involvement of Indian Pilots in Afghan War

839. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported allegations made by Afghan rebels' representatives to the effect that Indian pilots and military personnel were helping the Government forces of Afghanistan in the battle for control of Jalalabad and other areas around it; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These reports are baseless and have already been denied on several occasions by the Government.

Creation of Indian Education Service

840. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to prevent brain drain especially in respect of teachers, scientists and others, Government propose to create to an 'Indian Education Service' on the lines of IAS;

(b) whether the National Student Union of India, at its recent convention held in New Delhi ,has made any demand in this regard; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (c) In order to provide a proper management structure in education and to bring a national perspective to this vital sector, the National Policy on Education, 1986, envisages establishment of the Indian Education Service as an All-India Service. A sub-group of the Committee on Management of Education set up by the Central Advisory Board of Education has been constituted to formulate detailed proposals in this behalf. It would require further discussion and consultation with all concerned to finalise the proposals.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Augmentation of Indian Airlines Fleet

841. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to augment its fleet by adding 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft;

(b) if so, whether a loan has been secured for the purpose, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) on what routes and services these new aircraft are proposed to be put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against a total amount of US $ 783.956 million to be met by raising loans, Indian Airlines has tied up loan arrangements for US $ 516.07 million from the following 5 sources,